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December 17, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Jocelyn Boyd
Chief Clerk / Executive Director
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

Re: South Carolina Energy Freedom Act (House Bill 3659) Proceeding Related to Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for the Commission to Review the Community Solar Programs Established Pursuant to Act 236 of 2014 and to Solicit Status Information on Existing Programs from the Electrical Utility S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-40 (B)(1)
Docket No. 2019-210-E

South Carolina Energy Freedom Act (House Bill 3659) Proceeding Related to Duke Energy Progress, LLC for the Commission to Review the Community Solar Programs Established Pursuant to Act 236 of 2014 and to Solicit Status Information on Existing Programs from the Electrical Utility S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-41-40 (B)(1)
2019-211-E

Request for Hearing Officer Directive Holding Procedural Deadlines in Abeyance

Dear Ms. Boyd:

On December 2, 2020, the Commission issued Order No. 2020-791 directing the Clerk to set a procedural schedule in the above-referenced dockets under which Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (together, the "Companies") would submit an application to the Commission for approval of community solar programs on or before January 8, 2021. Order No. 2020-791 further provides that a Commission Hearing Officer may modify the procedural schedule for good cause without further order of the Commission. The Companies request that the Hearing Officer issue an order holding the procedural schedule in abeyance to permit the Companies an opportunity to engage in a stakeholder process prior to filing an application.

After the enactment of Act 62, the Companies met with stakeholders interested in community solar in the summer of 2019. While the Companies had initial conversations with these stakeholders, the Companies would like the opportunity to re-engage with those stakeholders to discuss the framework and design of potential new community solar offerings. Such stakeholder engagement would create an



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December 17, 2020
Page: 2

opportunity to update information shared from 2019 and share additional information about changes to community solar program design by other utilities across the country since the group last met. The Companies also believe that stakeholder engagement could enable interested parties to potentially form a consensus proposal for the Commission's consideration. Based on initial communications with stakeholders, the Companies believe the earliest meeting could not occur until early January.

Accordingly, the Companies respectfully request that the Hearing Officer issue an order holding the procedural schedule in abeyance to permit the Companies to begin engaging in stakeholder discussions. The Companies believe that they could provide the Commission with an update on these discussions and a procedural schedule that works for all interested parties on or before February 5, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Kind regards,

Sam Wellborn

C: Parties of Record (via email)
Heather Shirley Smith, Deputy General Counsel (via email)
Rebecca J. Dulin, Associate General Counsel (via email)